

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2005 MEETING**

Chairman Donald Hooper called a meeting of the Workforce Investment Board to order at 6:25 PM, Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at the GranView Restaurant, Ogdensburg, New York.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Doug Beachard, Sue Caswell, Paul Catanzarite, Rich Daddario, Bruce Green, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Linda Manchester, Mike Noble, Steve Novacich, Joanne Novak, Walt Paul,

Members Absent: Genevieve Baxter, Lynn Blevins, Don Brining, Ken Garwood, Ron McDougall, Linda Randi, Ryan Schermerhorn, Mike St. Thomas, John Tubbs, Tim Weaver

Others Present: Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Natalie Haggart, and Steve House of the Office of Economic Development; Todd Doherty of the NYSDOL; Dave Coffey of St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES; and Tom Plastino, Citec.

MINUTES: Moved by Mr. Beachard and seconded by Mr. Catanzarite, the minutes of the January 26, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Chairman Hooper reported that he attended a meeting of officials of Ainsworth Lumber Co., along with Ray Fountain, IDA Chair Brian Staples, Planning Office Director Keith Zimmerman, and CITEC Executive Director Tom Plastino. Mr. Fountain provided a brief history of the company, noting gross sales last year were a little over \$1 billion and they had 10 plants (plywood, veneer, oriented strand board) in Minnesota and Canada. The project, to be located in Lisbon, would provide approximately 160 jobs within the plant alone, not counting the approximately 350-450 jobs that could be created for suppliers. There was a lengthy discussion about the effect this project could have on other business sectors within the County, i.e. diesel repair, fuel and other services. This project could provide many opportunities within and around St. Lawrence County.

Chairman Hooper then reported that the Education Committee was appointed to develop training for the Board membership. Two sessions have already been held with the third session scheduled for April 6th at 3:30 at the Human Services Center. Chairman Hooper thanked the Committee for the successful outcome of their assigned task.

Chairman Hooper reported that Rich Daddario, Walt Paul, Linda Manchester, Patrick Kelly and Ray Fountain attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference in Washington DC on March 3-5, 2004. He asked each of the attendees to provide the Board with their feedback on the meeting.

Mr. Daddario noted that he found the conference to be interesting and added that he attended mostly "WIB-related" meetings. He noted that the availability of resources varies with each area (e.g. urban areas vs. rural areas), but that the issues our WIB deal with (Strategic Planning, training, etc) were much like other WIBs. He noted he was left with a good feeling as many WIBs are struggling with these similar issues. He reported that at one roundtable discussion, he learned that, in the next 25 years 75% of jobs created will be below the US mean income, and challenged the Board to address this. Mr. Daddario also reported that data gathering is important, and, with limited resources, the

WIB should consider teaming up with other WIBs in the North Country to conduct a general study of the sector jobs, needs, etc.

Mr. Paul reported that he came to the realization that this nation was in trouble. Jobs outsourcing is affecting higher skill levels jobs, not just those jobs requiring little or no skills. Also the affect of the Euro on the American dollar will affect the stock market, in turn, affecting pension plans, etc.

Ms. Manchester noted that she attended workshops similar to those attended by Mr. Daddario. She noted her impression with one workshop conducted by Texas workforce development, which has evolved beyond us. Texas seems to have a clear idea of their role and involvement, and have gotten past issues we are presenting dealing with. Ms. Manchester also discussed Workplace Readiness Centers in Virginia, whereby customers are “certified” when they meet State standards, One-Stop standards, and WIB standards for skills in demand by local business sectors. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding reaching students while they are in school to get them on a career track that will enable them to get the skills they need for tomorrow’s jobs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marketing & Quality Assurance Committee: No report.

Youth Committee: No report

Services Committee: No report.

Executive Committee: Chairman Hooper reported that the Executive Committee met on March 16th to review a number of items, including those in the meeting packet. Chairman Hooper noted that Mr. Fountain inquired at the Executive Meeting about the WIB’s desire to continue to receive the “Fact of the Day” issuances by the US Department of Labor. Chairman Hooper noted that he felt these issuances were part of the WIB’s education process and asked for the Board’s opinion on the matter.

Mr. Novacich advocated that these issuances are positions and not facts, and asked that the membership keep this in mind when reading them.

Chairman Hooper reported that he received a letter of resignation from Ms. Novak, citing personal and professional reasons for her decision. Chairman Hooper thanked Ms. Novak for her commitment over the past 8 years.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolutions:

- Certification of Eligible Training Providers
- Modifying Program Year 2002 WIA Budget for St. Lawrence County Office of Economic Development Employment & Training Unit

Chairman Hooper reported that the budget modification is a result of an award of supplemental allocation of WIA Statewide Activity funds. He also reported that, per our local policy, the WIB denied 4 requests for certification from a training provider already approved by Monroe County. Moved by Dr. Kennedy and seconded by Mr. Novacich, the resolutions passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution “Accepting Strategic Plan:” Moved by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. Green. Mr. Fountain noted that part of the strategic plan’ addressed WIB members’ concerns and comments. One of the members commented on loan updates, interest rates, outcomes, etc. Mr. Fountain noted that no WIA money is ever spent on loans. Funds may be provided to businesses via on-the-job training contracts. The Office of Economic Development staffs programs (St. Lawrence County IDA; St. Lawrence County IDA Local Development Corporation; Greater Massena Economic Development Fund; and St. Lawrence County LDC MicroLoan Fund) which has lending programs. Mr. Fountain noted he would provide a list of companies and the monies loaned under these loan funds, and would make this part of the training/education effort.

NEW BUSINESS: None

STAFF REPORT:

Mr. Fountain reported that a WIB membership outreach effort is being undertaken. Presently, the WIB is outreaching through the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce via their monthly newsletter. This newsletter is sent to almost 800 Chamber members. Mr. Fountain also provided a brief update on WIA Reauthorization. Mr. Fountain noted that, in regard to WIA budgets, the US DOL has indicated that the Federal WIA fund allocations should be published in the very near future. New York State, keeping in mind the upcoming Summer Youth Program deadlines and planning issues, has noted that upon formal notification of these allocations, they would prioritize youth allocation awards.

Mr. House provided a history and outcome of a WIA customer (report attached).

Mr. Manchester provided an overview of the New York State Department of Labor’s Department of Employment Services (DoES) as part of the WIB education program. This program was videotaped and will be made available (as will all portions of the training presentation) for members who missed any/all of the presentations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Mr. Beachard the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Approved:

/s/
Donald J. Hooper, Chairman